



Grace

...means that God is pursuing you. That God forgives you. That God sanctifies you. When you are apathetic toward God, He is never apathetic toward you. When you don't desire to pray and talk to God, He never grows tired of talking to you. When you forget to read your Bible and listen to God, He is always listening to you. Grace means that your spirituality is upheld by God's stubborn enjoyment of you.

Preston Sprinkle

Welcome

Welcome to Cross Sound Church. Whether you are a follower of Jesus, someone interested in Christianity, or a skeptic about faith—God is calling you to worship. Wherever you are in life, we hope you feel welcome and at home. If you have never been to church (or not in a long time) and fear that you will not know what to do, how to act, or what to say, know this: God's grace is here and is for people like you.

We are a church that loves our cities: Bainbridge Island, Poulsbo, Silverdale, Kingston, and Seattle. And while we actively love and serve our communities, we don't pretend to have it all together. Instead, we are a church where there is freedom to struggle with our questions, doubts, and fears; and a place where real healing, joy, and power can be found.

We are a church rooted in the belief that the historic Christian gospel is true, compelling, and promises to change our lives powerfully, in the direction of freedom, hope, and generosity.

The gospel, which means 'Good News', tells us that God's Kingdom has entered history in order to renew us and the world. The gospel is more than entering God's Kingdom, it is also the way we face every struggle in life and make any progress in personal growth.

The good news is that Jesus lived the life we should have lived and died the death we deserved to die in order to put us in a place where only He deserves to be—in a right, safe, thrilling relationship with God the Father.

Cross Sound Church desires to be filled with both believers and non-believers, who together explore the claims of the gospel and its effects on our lives and on the world.

Our aim in worship is both ancient, with liturgy that connects us to the Church of old and those who have gone before us, as well as modern, accessible, and meaningful. Underneath it all is our desire to be God-honoring, God-exalting, God-glorifying! Let's worship God together.

Say hello

PASTORS: Dave O'Connell: daveoc@crosssound.org (314) 853-2695
and Dave Sellers: dave@crosssound.org (206) 334-5205

To learn more about the entire staff and our team of Elders, Deacons, International Ministers and Community Group Leaders, visit our website: crosssound.org call our office: (206) 842-6898 or email info@crosssound.org

As we gather to worship, please silence all mobile phones and devices for the duration of the service.

Renewing

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and just
to forgive our sins
and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*4th candle – (purple) The Angel Candle or The Candle of Love:
The angels announced the good news of a Savior!*

“...I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord” — Luke 2:10b-11

God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us!
“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal
life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the
world, but to save the world through him.” — John 3:16-17

Once in Royal David's City — *Cecil F. Alexander, 1848 / Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849*

Once in royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid her Baby, In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,, Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from Heaven, Who is God and Lord of all
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day, like us He grew
He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love
For that Child so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav'n above
And He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone

The largest book in the Bible is primarily a book of poems set to music to sing God praises. This is all part of God's design to surround His presence with singing. Gratitude to God expresses dependence upon God and is an antidote for cynicism, criticism, and bitterness.

We Three Kings — *Words & music: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857. Hopkins wrote this carol for a Christmas pageant at the General Theological Seminary in New York City.*

We three Kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O - h, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God most high!

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice!
"Alleluia, Alleluia,"
Earth to heaven replies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTIONS

Musical Prelude — *Wyatt and Jack Foster*

It has been the practice of the church for thousands of years to have portions of the Bible read during worship services. We do this because we are people who need to be shaped by all of God's word.

The Christmas Story

A CROSS SOUND NATIVITY PLAY

SCENE ONE

The Promises of the Prophets

Oh Come All Ye Faithful

Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh come ye, Oh come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

Oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him,
Oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord

SCENE TWO

The Angel Gabriel's Announcment to Mary

SCENE THREE

The Angel Gabriel's Announcment to Joseph

O Come O Come Emmanuel — *Emma Kilby on flute*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel



SCENE FOUR
Mary's Visit to Elizabeth



SCENE FIVE
Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus in the Stable

Oh, Holy Night

Oh holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices!

Oh night divine, Oh night, When Christ was born!
Oh night, divine, Oh night, Oh night divine!

SCENE SIX
The Shepherds on the Hillside

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king"

SCENE SEVEN
The Shepherds Visit the Baby Jesus

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

SCENE EIGHT
The Visit of the Three Wise Men

Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come, Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns, Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders, of His love

THE END
Thank you Brooke Wellman for organizing and leading this effort!



OFFERING — Matthew 10:8

Freely you have received, freely give.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain — *John W. Work, Jr., 1907; Music: African-American spiritual*

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angels' chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

Offering is a way for members and friends of Cross Sound to support the worship and work of the church, its mission and ministry. There are different ways to give:

- Offering basket: place Check or Cash in a Giving Envelope on Sunday mornings
- Cross Sound app: look up "Church Center" on the App Store and follow prompts
- Online: www.crosssound.org/give • Stock: contact bookkeeper@crosssound.org

• Mail: Cross Sound Church PO Box 11748 or 600 Ericksen Ave NE #210, Bainbridge Is., WA 98110



Sending

BENEDICTION

May God give you delight to follow his ways
as your life lies hidden in the life of Christ—
truly God and truly human, who loved perfectly God and neighbor—
and may his Spirit create your heart anew in his likeness;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

“

Christmas itself is by grace. It could never have survived our own blindness and depredations otherwise. It could never have happened otherwise. Perhaps it is the very wildness and strangeness of the grace that has led us to try to tame it. We have tried to make it habitable. We have roofed it in and furnished it. We have reduced it to an occasion we feel at home with, at best a touching and beautiful occasion, at worst a trite and cloying one. But if the Christmas event in itself is indeed—as a matter of cold, hard fact—all it's cracked up to be, then even at best our efforts are misleading.

The Word become flesh. Ultimate Mystery born with a skull you could crush one-handed. Incarnation. It is not tame. It is not touching. It is not beautiful. It is uninhabitable terror. It is unthinkable darkness riven with unbearable light. Agonized laboring led to it, vast upheavals of intergalactic space, time split apart, a wrenching and tearing of the very sinews of reality itself. You can only cover your eyes and shudder before it, before this: “God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God... who for us and for our salvation,” as the Nicene Creed puts it, “came down from heaven.”

Came down. Only then do we dare uncover our eyes and see what we can see. It is the Resurrection and the Life she holds in her arms. It is the bitterness of death he takes at her breast. — Frederick Buechner

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The benediction, different from good wishes or even a prayer, is a pronouncement of God's blessing. God sends us out in peace, giving us his presence as we go to be blessing-bearers to the world.

Announcements

Join us Christmas Eve! Family Service at 4pm. Carols + Candlelight Service at 7pm.

Please take an invitation as you exit this morning, and give it to a friend, neighbor, or anyone that needs to be invited into the celebration.

We will have service Christmas morning, Sunday, Dec 25 at 10am, per usual.
Wishing you all a merry, blessed Christmas!

Poinsettias in memory of a loved one

If you have lost someone this year, we would like to honor their memory with a poinsettia this Christmas. We will list their name in the Christmas Eve bulletin, and you may take a poinsettia home after the Carols & Candlelight Service.

Intro to Cross Sound Church: Jan 29, Feb 5, 12, 26, 8:45-9:45am at the BHS Library.

What do we believe as a church? What is our theology, vision, mission? Where is God taken us and where is God leading us? This is a four week class that is required for church membership but in no way obligation you to become a member. In fact, why do we even have church membership? Come and find out more about Cross Sound Church. *Email dave@crosssound.org with questions.*

Community Group Leaders' Training: You're invited to a small group leader's training meeting on Saturday, January 7th from 9am-10:30 at the church office, where we'll be lead in a new vision for small groups at Cross Sound Church. *Please email dave@crosssound.org if you're planning to attend.*

\$25 for 25: Gift Cards for Helpline House Helpline House provides holiday gift cards to those in need in our community. The Deacons at Cross Sound Church will provide 25 gift cards valued at \$25 each to support this holiday effort. Your donation of \$25 to Cross Sound Deacons can help make this happen. *Please donate online (using QR code) and specify "25 for \$25" giving option. Thank you!*



Cuba Donations for January Missions Trip There is a group from Cross Sound traveling to Cuba in the New Year. They have 4 suitcases to bring much needed items, and are asking for donations, specifically: **medicines, food, and children's clothes.** You may deliver donations to the church office, or bring to church on Sunday. *Contact Shannon Roa for more information: sadelaem@yahoo.com. Thank you!*

If you have any announcements that you would like included in the bulletin, please email Kristin@crosssound.org by Wednesday afternoons. Include basic info: Who, What, When and how to sign up!

Connect With Us

If you are new to Cross Sound Church, please tear this portion off and put it in the offering to let us know you were here. You may also use this to inform us of any changes in your contact information, or to submit prayer requests for the staff to pray over.

First time visitor () Interested in more info for: Please add me to:
Second time visitor () _____ Ministry () Email list ()
Regular attendee () Mailing list ()

Name(s): _____

Children & their ages: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Prayer Requests/Comments: _____

We hope these are helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and His people, the church.

Prayer for the Skeptic

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sin and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and my turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your spirit. Amen.